



Citizen Corps Score

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A Monthly Publication for Indiana Citizen Corps Councils Their Partners and Affiliates

Phone (317) 233-4273

Fax (317) 233-5660

American Safety and Health Institute to Partner with Citizen Corps

C. Suzanne Mencer, Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness within the Department of Homeland Security, announced an official affiliate partnership between the American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) and Citizen Corps. Through this affiliation, ASHI will use their 30,000 professional safety-training educators, thousands of ASHI student volunteers, and 1,000 Citizen Corps Councils at the state and local levels to implement strategies of emergency preparedness and provide local support to emergency responders. Working with Citizen Corps, ASHI will encourage these trainees to help implement local Citizen Corps programs and to volunteer for local Citizen Corps Councils. They will learn to utilize their ASHI training in life-saving and safety skills to help others be prepared and to be effective in a crisis situation. ASHI is a not for profit association of professional safety & health educators focusing on excellence in education in the areas of CPR, AED, First Aid, workplace safety/disaster preparedness, rescue and wilderness survival skills. To learn more about ASHI's programs, visit www.ashinstitute.org.

USAFC Volunteer Network Partners

The USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network is the most comprehensive clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities ever available. Americans can enter geographic information about where they want to get involved, such as state or zip code, and areas of interest ranging from education to the environment, to access volunteer opportunities offered by a range of partner organizations across the country or around the world. These volunteer web sites can be accessed by going to http://www.freedomcorps.gov/content/about_usafc/partners/index.asp

Changes to ICCSV website

To help current Citizen Corps Councils, those individuals interested in starting a Citizen Corps Council, and the general public, the ICCSV has made some changes to its website to contain more information pertaining to Citizen Corps. The changes can be seen by navigating from www.in.gov/iccsv/programs and scrolling down the page to Citizen Corps. Any suggestions concerning Citizen Corps information posted on the ICCSV website is welcomed, and can be forwarded to the ICCSV at iccsv@state.in.us.

Neighborhood Watch (NW) – Starting a Neighborhood Watch

You've heard about the benefits of NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH participation. You suspect—or know—that there is a crime problem in your area. How do you get a program started in your neighborhood? Design a flyer or letter of invitation and see that one is delivered to every home on your target list. Teenagers and Scouts in the neighborhood can play a valuable role by delivering announcements and information. Follow up each invitation with a call or personal visit, reminding neighbors of the meeting time and place. Try to get each household to commit at least one adult member to the meeting so you can estimate potential attendance. All family members are welcome to join NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, as young people can add substantially to the success of the program. Senior citizen participation is also a plus; retired seniors are home and can observe the neighborhood when many other adults are at work. To learn more about starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area, please visit:

http://www.usaonwatch.org/resource/Neighborhood_Watch/watchmanual.pdf

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) – Recruitment

In order to develop a successful law enforcement volunteer program, you must seek out individuals who are qualified for the work they will be performing. Research on volunteerism has consistently shown that people who are asked to volunteer are far more likely to volunteer than those who are not asked. There may be preexisting avenues within your agency that can be used to recruit volunteers. While you may not have what you consider to be a true volunteer program, there are likely individuals in your community who currently assist your department by participating in a citizen's advisory board, Triad program or Neighborhood Watch. These individuals may be the first community members to reach out to when developing a program.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – Conducting a Risk and Needs Assessment

- Consider the specific medical and public health related risks and needs that affect your community.
- Interview potential response partners and other community organizations to learn more about their work and where they see needs for volunteer support.
- Identify some possible approaches to those risks and needs that will involve your MRC volunteers.
- Start with what you know best about your community. You don't have to tackle everything at once. Your MRC's contribution can grow over time.
- Always keep the big picture in mind. Even if it's impossible to handle all at once, you'll still be better prepared to meet your next challenge.
- Explore ways to coordinate with local response partners.
- Consider what your volunteers will need to develop capabilities and commitment to your MRC.
- List the things you will need to establish and maintain a strong administrative organization. What resources will you require to sustain your MRC?

What to know more about starting a Medical Reserve Corps in your area, visit:

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/pdf/MRCTASeries00.pdf>

Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T) – Community Hazard Analysis

Review your community's hazard analysis, and consider how CERTs could contribute in response to your community's high-risk and high-impact hazards. Some items to consider as you complete your review are listed below.

1. Complete the matrix (on page 35 at http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/new_CERT/docs/CERT.pdf) to determine if the risks posed by your community's highest-risk hazards can be met by CERTs, given their areas of training, level of training, and experience.
2. In addition to the basic CERT training for response in neighborhoods or workplaces, what other ways could CERT assist your organization?
3. What other roles could CERTs play (e.g., distributing smoke alarms, providing medical support at community events)?
4. What additional training would be required?
5. What equipment will you give CERT and what will they have to supply on their own?
6. What is the minimum number of CERTs that would be required to make the program viable?
7. How will you divide your community to make CERT team assignments (e.g., by neighborhood, fire district, police precinct)?

To learn more about starting and maintaining a C.E.R.T program in your area, visit

http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/CERT/new_CERT/docs/CERT.pdf

Nation a Mix Of Anxiety, Concern and Calm over Homeland Security, New Report Finds

While a majority of Americans describe themselves as “concerned” regarding homeland security and believe that the United States is likely to be the target of another terrorist attack in the months ahead, very few are aware of state and local security preparedness plans, according to a report released by the nonpartisan Council for Excellence in Government. The report, “From the Home Front to the Front Lines: America Speaks Out about Homeland Security,” presents findings of a two-part study conducted by Hart-Teeter Research and sponsored by Accenture (NYSE: ACN). The report is based on a national survey of more than 1,600 American citizens as well as a national sample of 250 frontline emergency response personnel. **Citizen Respondents** - When asked for ways that government can improve homeland security, more than one third of citizen respondents said they believe that the two most-effective measures are creating information systems that can share data across law enforcement, health and emergency agencies, and improving border security. Nearly half (47 percent) of Americans surveyed said that the United States is safer today than it was on Sep. 11, 2001, up from 38 percent one year after the attacks. **Front-Line Emergency Respondents** – The report also provides detailed opinions from a sample of front-line emergency responders across the nation, including fire chiefs, police chiefs and sheriffs. Although a majority (53 percent) of this group said they believe that the country is safer today than it was two and a half years ago, two-thirds (65 percent) of all of these respondents said they believe that their agencies are only somewhat prepared to respond if disaster strikes, and only one-quarter (26 percent) said they believe that their agencies are adequately prepared. The full report can be viewed at http://www.excelgov.org/usermedia/images/uploads/PDFs/Homeland_Full_Report.pdf

Local Council Updates

Monroe County Citizen Corps Council has partnered with the Van Buren Township Fire Department in support of "Operation First Alert", a local public awareness campaign to promote fire prevention. Van Buren Township Deputy Chief Tim Deckard is spearheading the program to ensure that township residents are protected with smoke detectors.

Hendricks County Citizen Corps Council has partnered with the Washington Township Fire Department to help put on a Health and Safety Fair. Citizens Corps will have a booth there and the C.E.R.T team will be doing a cribbing demonstration. There will be ID kits for kids, and around 30 booths promoting health and safety.

Publications/Resources

Talking about Disaster--Providing Safety Information to the Public <http://www.fema.gov/rtr/talkdiz/>
Crisis Communications Guide and Toolkit <http://www.nea.org/crisis/>
Fire Curriculum for Students http://www.fema.gov/kids/firecurr_13.htm
Helping Young People with Terrorism and Other Tragic Events <http://www.redcross.org/disaster/masters/facingfear/>

Upcoming Events

May is National Bike Month
May is National Mental Health Month
Physical Fitness and Sports Month

May 1	May Day
May 4	Primary Election Day – ICCSV office closed
May 4	National Teacher Day
May 9	Mother's Day
May 12	International Nurses Day
May 15	Armed Forces Day
May 31	Memorial Day – ICCSV office closed

Bug Safety

- Don't use scented soaps, perfumes or hair sprays on your child.
- Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate, such as stagnant pools of water, uncovered foods and gardens where flowers are in bloom.
- Avoid dressing your child in clothing with bright colors or flowery prints.
- To remove a visible stinger from skin, gently scrape it off horizontally with a credit card or your fingernail.
- Insect repellents containing DEET are the most effective.
- The concentration of DEET in products may range from less than 10 percent to over 30 percent. The benefits of DEET reach a peak at a concentration of 30 percent, the maximum concentration currently recommended for infants and children. DEET should not be used on children under 2 months of age.
- The concentration of DEET varies significantly from product to product, so read the label of any product you purchase.

Keep in Touch!

ICCSV Staff

Brad S. Woodlee, Citizen Corps Coordinator
 Brandy S. Wood, Senior Program Director

Phone

(317) 233-0902
 (317) 233-0901

E-mail

Bwoodlee@dwd.state.in.us
Bwood@dwd.state.in.us